

Message Text

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ACTION H-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8682

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E.O. L1652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (HUMPHREY, HUBERT)
SUBJECT: INVITATION FOR SENATOR HUMPHREY

1. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT THE LABOR ECONOMIC, FINANCE AND TAXATION ASSOCIATION (LEFTA) DECEMBER 8 WROTE TO SENATOR HUMPHREY, INVITING HIM TO SPEAK AT ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 28, 1977. THE CONFERENCE WILL CONSIDER BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS WILL INCLUDE CHANCELLOR HEALEY, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY, LEADING TRADE UNIONISTS AND NOTED BRITISH ECONOMISTS.

2. LEFTA IS A WELL KNOWN, LABOR-ORIENTED ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND TAX POLICY. SIR HAROLD WILSON IS PRESIDENT, LORD (DOUGLAS) HOUGHTON IS CHAIRMAN, AND SIX CABINET MEMBERS -- INCLUDING CALLAGHAN AND HEALEY -- SERVE ON ITS BOARD. THE U.S. SPEAKER AT LAST YEAR'S CONFERENCE WAS J.K. GALBRAITH.

3. IF THE SENATOR'S SCHEDULE PERMITS, WE URGE THAT HE ACCEPT THE LEFTA INVITATION. THIS FORUM WOULD PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR A LEADING AMERICAN POLITICAL FIGURE LIKE THE SENATOR TO DISPEL THE GROWING PERCEPTION IN BRITAIN, BASED ON INACCURATE AND ALARMIST COMMENTARY IN U.S. CONCERNING BRITISH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION THAT WE MAY HAVE "WRITTEN BRITAIN OFF." EMBASSY WOULD ALSO WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROGRAM THE SENATOR FURTHER, SHOULD HE ACCEPT THE INVITATION AND HIS
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TIME PERMIT.

ARMSTRONG

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NNN

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